

Draft  
Town of Mansfield Transportation Advisory Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting – April 30, 2015, Conference Room B

Present: Hultgren (chair), Ryan, Nowak, Aho, Millman, Taylor, Gupta, Ross, Carrington (Director of Public Works), Painter (Director of Planning), Yakovleff (guest)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM and introductions were made. The minutes of the January 8, 2015 meeting were approved on a motion by Ryan/Nowak.

Painter updated members on the status of the Plan of Conservation and Development. A public comment meeting is scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. She said that the comments made by the advisory committees, including TAC, had been received and incorporated. Hultgren asked if the most recently recommended additions to the Town's bike route system had been included, and Painter said she would check. (These recommendations were included in the TAC minutes of the January 8, 2015 meeting.)

The walkway additions that were referred to staff at the January meeting were still under review to determine if they met the recent criteria worked up by the PZC's infrastructure subcommittee and TAC. Hopefully this information will be available by the next TAC meeting in July.

Carrington reported that he did receive the draft sidewalk ordinance and he was meeting with the Town Attorney in the next week or so and would discuss it with him. Some discussion about what the policy for bikes riding on the sidewalks in Storrs Center took place (there are no bike lanes or sharrows for bikes in Route 195). The draft ordinance requires cyclists to yield to pedestrians, not exceed 10 mph, sound a bell or other warning when overtaking, and use a light after dark. Carrington also reported that the forms and policies for the transportation center's bicycle commuting "club" were just about complete, and he expected these facilities would be "live" later this spring.

The Town's WRTD representatives were not in attendance, but WRTD stops and policies were briefly discussed. Committee members felt that WRTD should be asked to serve the Town's Library in the future.

Carrington updated committee members on the status of several transportation-related projects. He said that the bus shelter on South Eagleville Road near the Community Center had been installed and that the existing sidewalk along the south side of this road would be repaved this year. He said the continuation of the sidewalk on the west side of Route 195 south of Route 275 was now under construction and should be completed in October of this year. He said the initial meeting to kick-off the Safe Roads to School project (sidewalk along Route 89 from 195 to Southeast school) had not yet been held. He also said that a pavement management study would be taking place this year.

The draft complete streets policy included in the agenda packet was discussed and edited to add "Town Facilities" to the bulleted list of project selection criteria on the second page. After discussion about how much detail was needed in such a policy, the edited policy was approved and recommended to the Town staff for further review/editing and forwarding to the manager and council for adoption (moved by Taylor, seconded by Nowak and passed unanimously).

The May is Bike Month proclamation was approved and recommended to be sent to the manager and council for adoption.

Nord Yakovleff addressed the committee and explained his proposal to have a safe bike route created linking the two Hollow state parks in Eastern CT (22 miles from Mansfield Hollow to Bigelow Hollow). He said he had been working with the DOT and the appropriate Councils of Governments to get a feasibility study and cost estimate started. He requested the TAC's endorsement of the project so that the Town Manager could request help from CROG for the study. Committee members voted to endorse and support this project on a motion by Aho/Ross. This will now be communicated to the Town Manager. It was also suggested Mr. Yakovleff seek the endorsement of the Green Valley project organizers.

Under other business, Painter reported that the Northeast Health District had received a Community Health grant that could help promote healthy living and active transportation (biking/walking) in the region. She said a tool kit would be developed for Planning and Zoning Commissions and suggested that active transportation advocates take part in the project's advisory committees.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 9<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 PM on a motion by Ross/Millman.

Respectfully submitted,

Lon Hultgren  
Chair

cc: Town Clerk, next agenda packet